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7 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Addition of a Tape Unit to the 650 Locator System

1. The IBM 650 RAMAC Locator System used by RID/SB has had several instances of loss of a track of information. Due to the chaining principle used in the program, this can result in the loss of several tracks. Recently a track was lost; the information on it was recovered only because a print-out of that track had been made a few days earlier. Upon checking it was found that this track led to 35 other tracks which would have also been lost.
2. We therefore must take steps to maintain a back-up of the six modules of disk files we use. This must be done on some cyclic basis.
3. On the system as presently constituted, we may either punch out cards or list out. Punch out would involve 90 hours and print-out 40 hours. These result in large stacks of cards or paper to be held, and the cycle period would have to be long.
4. With the addition of a single tape unit at \$550 per month and changes in the control and storage units at \$450 per month we will be able to dump all six modules in less than six hours to magnetic tape. At this speed the entire system may be dumped each week and the up-date cards destroyed.
5. The tape unit will also greatly simplify and speed the conversion from the 650 to the 1410.
6. We have therefore decided to add the tape capacity to the 650 system. This addition will be made within 60 days, but print-out will be made for protection until that time. Until the arrival of the tape unit IBM has waived all extra shift rental required for the print-out.

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DDP/MMU

cc: C/RID

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